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*Bush isn't talking*

## Sensitive role limits politician's activities

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WASHINGTON — There are some things George Bush can't talk about.

He can't talk about congressional politics, even though he was a congressman from Houston for two terms.

He can't talk about presidential politics, even though he is a past chairman of the Republican National Committee.

He can't talk about the upcoming Italian election or the Panama Canal controversy, even though he was U. S. ambassador to the United Nations in the early 1970s.

He can't talk about the recent leadership changes in the Peoples Republic of China, even though he was chief of the U.S. liaison office there for a year.

IN FACT, BECAUSE of the nature of his current job, George Bush can only talk publicly about one thing, and that one thing is so sensitive George Bush can say very little about it.

It is undoubtedly an odd situation for Bush, a gregarious Texan with a penchant for politics and the public life.

Bush concedes it is somewhat difficult to strike a balance between being low profile and being available. He has made some 20 appearances before congressional committees in the last three months and has accepted several speaking engagements, but toys with the idea of turning down speaking invitations because they put him in the position of having to decline answering certain questions.

NONETHELESS, BUSH, head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) since late January, made a luncheon appearance at the Washington Press Club.

Although he wouldn't talk about politics or policy, one thing the 51-year-old Bush had no qualms expressing is his unabashed enthusiasm for CIA and the importance of its work.

"CIA is absolutely vital, absolutely essential to our security," Bush said. "I defend the agency and I'm not in the least ashamed of that. I am proud to be associated with the place."

Bush, of course, is somewhat ashamed of the past activities of CIA which have been documented by a recent presidential commission and by a Senate committee, including involvement in foreign assassinations and domestic politics.

However, Bush declined to follow the lead of Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Clarence Kelley and apologize for excesses committed by the agency.

KELLEY APOLOGIZED to the American public for abuses of the bureau's investigative powers during the "twilight" of J. Edgar Hoover's career.

Asked if he would similarly apologize for actions of CIA prior to his becoming director, Bush said, action

has been taken "to clean up the mistakes of the past."

He declined to say more, other than to express his "outrage" at the activities and to state that he abhors the wrongdoing.

"I've made my views known in public session in the United States Senate," he said, referring to his confirmation hearing when he stated he finds political assassination "morally offensive" and believes CIA "ought to butt out of domestic issues."

MORALE IN THE agency was a problem when Bush took over as director, but he states now, "the agency's morale is in pretty good shape. Its effectiveness, though damaged in some respects, is in pretty good shape. I think the abuses of the past have been taken care of."

Bush described himself as "unenthusiastic" about members of Congress giving out secret information to which they have been privy. "I am concerned about the protection of sources and methods," he said, adding that the disclosure of agents' names is "disgraceful."

Undoubtedly, his new position has made changes in Bush's life, one aspect of which he touched on in some opening remarks.

"I no longer turn first (in the newspaper) to see what primary is doing what," he said. "I can't tell you I don't read those things but I no longer talk about it."

*CIA. 8/1 Bush George*  
*ORIG. Overseas Press*  
*Club*  
*P. Raeke, Carolyn*